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Disarmament and the Peace Treaty

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8 / Dominion League or British 10/3/7

Empire League - Oct. 27/27.
Int. Int. Affairs Club

Points -

1. Consultation and Co-operation.
2. ~~Canada~~ in Council. "Equality -
'British Empire'"
3. Canada in Council.
4. Part Dominion play.
5. British Empire League - does it
solve our problems or create more
serious ones.

1. "British Empire" in League:

Meaning in Covenant and

Treaty —

that it included all, the
named Dominions as well as others.

that the Paris Conference was
the natural model: that for the Council,
there should always have been a
British Empire delegation, subject to
presence of any Dominion as such in
matters concerning it.

that for Assembly, while there
was a British Empire delegation,
also functioning by ~~active~~ consultation
& intimate association during proceedings,
you followed the plenary model at

Paris: each present with separate
speech, square vote?

Practice: separate seating in
Assembly in accordance with the.

Gradually, "British Empire"
in Assembly synonymous with G. B.
and dependencies.

in Council, however, "British
Empire" does does still in practice
~~in a sense~~ represent whole, through fact
that having sole ~~other~~ actual conduct of
foreign relations she is bound to view
questions there from point of view according
with interests & opinion of each; ~~not~~
~~wisely bridging them by her action but~~
~~at early date guiding her own~~ (partly because
so long as any unity remains her action

may affect them, partly because
without in any way binding them to
specific acts or by specific obligations,
her own policy must be ~~guided~~ ^{influenced}
by a consideration of their interests &
their views so far as known. Harst
(Chicago) ~~the~~ Chamberlain's feeling.
the difference between the Council
of the Assembly - the concrete and the
abstract.

~~Declaratory~~ ~~these~~
As "British Empire" comes
partly through ~~occasional~~ ^{occasional} ~~declarations~~
declarations of "constitutional" nature,
partly through practice in Assembly, to
mean Great Britain and dependencies
& important that description
4

shall be changed -

suggestion that we are Dominions
outside the B. E.

suggestion of their inferiority:
Imperial Conference p 121
imitating & mischievous

ambiguity: distances.

Can be done without amendment of

Covenant by simple interpretation.

Restore "British Empire" to its
description of whole.

2. Consultation & Co-operation -

not systematic: stealthy,
emergency. Some disposition to put
you up to do something, ^{when} ~~which~~ the
B. E. itself did not ~~was~~ care to appear:
concurs with view I have heard in Australia
of our usefulness there.

Shyness in delicate relations?
On whom does responsibility for
calling meetings lie?

Equality lack of leadership.
May be intensified by Canada coming to
Council?

3. Canada & Council

Surprise: no opportunity for discussion.

must detract from British leadership, & from the character of representation of whole. ~~Calcutta~~ ~~Wells~~ ~~Chairman~~

Possible reaction in British conduct of policy - European view of Conference of 1926: not so much the freedom of the Dominions as the freedom of British diplomacy within & without the League.

Differences in concrete matters of Council more serious than differences in abstract questions in Assembly.

Canada from lack of diplomatic contacts, less well informed. Will she be able to supply the lack by her permanent representation at Geneva?

Other problems:

British Empire & the League?
an obstruction to the
fulfilment of its aims.

What useful part can
the Dominions play in the League?
What useful part does membership
play in the outlook of the Dominions
themselves.

Can they contribute anything at
Geneva which makes cancellations
worth while. When the pressure of
events at times time and energy
leaves no leisure for academic
exercises or elementary education
in diplomacy.

Can the Dominions do anything
to make their delegation more
useful?

Does the C. of A. help to solve
our problems of Empire or does it
make them?